

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 ACDA-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /092 W

-----124855 061318Z /53

R 051530Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0698

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0989

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, IS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: WEST BANK REPRESSION--IDF DENIAL

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 872, (B) TEL AVIV 4433

1. IDF PRESS DENIAL CONCERNING RECENT "TIME" ARTICLE
"WEST BANK CRACKDOWN," (REFTEL B), HAS BEEN WIDELY DIS-
COUNTED AMONG OUR CONTACTS ON WEST BANK. AS WE REPORTED
EARLIER (REFTEL A), IDF CRACKDOWN IN MID-MARCH WAS WIDE-
SPREAD WITH MANY REPORTED INSTANCES OF BRUTALITY AND HARASS-
MENT.

2. CENTERPIECE OF "TIME'S" REPORT WAS THE USE OF TEAR GAS
IN WEST BANK SECONDARY SCHOOLS SPECIFICALLY BIET JALA AND
BEIT SAHUR. IN BOTH CASES AND ALSO IN NABLUS, MAYORS HAVE
TOLD US THAT TEAR GAS WAS USED IN SCHOOLS. IN ADDITION
BOTH RELIABLE LOCALLY-BASED AMERICAN JOURNALISTS (IN
ADDITION TO NEFF) AND AMERICAN BASED VOLAG REPS HAVE
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CONFIRMED VISUAL INSPECTION OF STAINS FROM TEAR GAS CANISTERS
ON CLASSROOM FLOORS AS WELL AS SPENT TEAR GAS CARTRIDGES.
LOCAL ICRC REP, BASED ON HIS KNOWLEDGE OF
INCIDENTS, FULLY SUPPORTS "TIME'S" REPORTING.
SEVERAL PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO BROKE LEGS IN JUMPING
FROM SECOND STORY OF BEIT JALA SCHOOL ARE BRINGING SUITS
AGAINST MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

3. COMMENT: IDF DENIAL SO BROAD AND ALL-EMBRACING AS TO
BE UNCONVINCING. WE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT, AT LEAST
AS A BOW IN THE DIRECTION OF PUBLIC OPINION, IDF MIGHT
HAVE INDICATED THAT FULLER INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY.
NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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